

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-18, 20, 21, and 24-34 are pending in the present application after this amendment cancels claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, and 22. Claims 32-34 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 2, 3, and 6-9 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 29 and to correct typographic errors introduced into claims 2 and 3 in the previous amendment. Claims 11, 12, and 15-18 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 30. Claims 20, 21, and 24-27 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 31. Claim 28 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 31 and to correct a typographic error. Withdrawn claim 32 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 29. No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. It is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered since they do not raise new issues and do not require additional search. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

ARGUMENT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FINALITY OF THE REJECTION

Applicants again note that the Office Action indicates in the summary that claim 28 is rejected, but provides no detailed explanation of the basis for rejecting claim 28. Applicants respectfully request a detailed examination of claim 28, or alternatively that the rejection of claim 28 be withdrawn. Applicants request that, if the claim is not allowed, that the finality of the rejection be withdrawn in light of the incompleteness of the rejection with respect to claim 28.

Applicants further request that claim 28 be allowed since it now includes the features of allowable claim 31, namely, detecting an occurrence of a prescribed event, wherein the step of changing the orientation includes a step of changing the orientation of the prescribed part in

response to the occurrence of the prescribed event, and wherein the prescribed event is selected from a plurality of events occurring in the virtual space.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner acknowledges that claims 29-31 are allowable.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner indicates that newly submitted claims 32-34 are distinct or independent from the originally claimed invention. The Examiner has therefore withdrawn the new claims as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants have amended claim 32 to depend from allowable claim 29, and therefore it is respectfully requested that the claim be examined and allowed since it depends from an allowable generic claim. Claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 32 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 32 is allowable.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 27 (claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, and 22 having been canceled) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,766,079 to Kataoka et al. (hereinafter Kataoka). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of each of these claims to depend from one of allowable claims 29-31 obviates this rejection.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

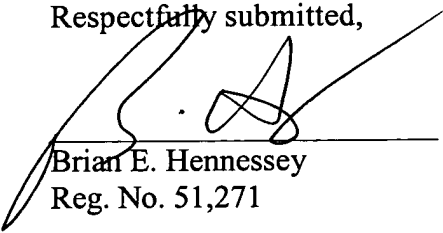
Claims 8, 17, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kataoka. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of each of these claims to depend from one of allowable claims 29-31 obviates this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
PHONE: (212) 940-8800
FAX: (212) 940-8776
DOCKET No.: SCEY 19.483 (100809-00172)
BEH:pm